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OCT 20 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 10, and 12 are amended herein. No new matter is added by the amendments, which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

With respect to claim 1, there are two input signals as shown for example in figure 1, and as clarified by amended claim 1, one of the two input signals is changed over to another. Also, figure 4, for example, illustrates a changeover unit (3) changing over two input signals from frame terminal units 1-1 and 1-4, respectively. Additionally, claim 1 is amended herein from "clocks" and "output signals" to "clock" and "output signal", respectively. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended is definite and allowable.

Claim 2 is amended herein based on figure 5 and the accompanying description in the specification (Specification; paragraphs [0041] to [0044]). Elements 2-1 and 2-3 illustrated in figure 5 correspond to the two extracting units, elements 7-1 and 7-2 correspond to the first and second clock changing units, elements 3-11 and 3-12 correspond to the first and second changeover units, and element 5-1 corresponds to the clock changing unit. CLK1 and CLK2 illustrate exemplary embodiments of the claimed reference clocks. Since only one of the reference clocks CLK1 and CLK2 is selected by the reference clock selector (element 8), claim 2 is now amended accordingly.

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Additionally with respect to claim 2, at least figure 4 illustrates an extracting unit (2) extracting from two input signals. In order to clarify the meaning of the term "gradually change" in claim 2, the word "gradually" is deleted and the limitation "a PLL circuit for inputting a clock outputted by the second changeover unit" is added based on figure 5. Accordingly, the amended claim 2 now includes some of the limitations similar to those of claim 1.

Claims 3-6 and 12 are amended for consistency with their respective base claims, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims is now definite and allowable.

With respect to claim 10, figures 7, 9, 11, and 13 illustrate embodiments of the claimed redundant changeover apparatuses, by, for example, elements 40a-1, 40a-2, 40b-1, 40b-2, 40c-1, 40c-2, 40d-1, and 40d-2. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is definite and allowable.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the amendments to the claims, the objections to the drawings are obviated. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no amendment is necessary for the drawings, and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.


In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian E. Hennessey
Reg. No. 51,271

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-6311
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
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